GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4538
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
PENSION FOR ARTISTS
Sai Shri Nand Kumar;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides pension for the persons belonging to the field of Arts;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the criteria fixed to award such pension;

(c) the names of person receiving central pension for 'Man of Arts' at present during 2007-08, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to award such pension to more persons from Tribal communities of the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b) Financial assistance is provided under the "Scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life, who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents." To be eligible under the scheme, a person should have attained the age of 58 years and the personal income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs.2000/- per month. His/her contribution to art and letter etc. must be of significance. The Government has bifurcated the scheme into two parts viz. (1) Central Quota and (2) Centre-State/UT Quota. Under the Central Quota the beneficiary is given an assistance of Rs. 2000/- per month by the Central Government and under the Centre-State /UT-Quota the amount of assistance is shared by the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 3:1 i.e. Centre pays Rs. 1500/- per month and balance Rs. 500/- per month is borne by the concerned State Government.

(c) Depending upon the furnishing of Life and Income certificate, the financial assistance was released to 1091 persons under this scheme during 2007-08, the state wise list of which is placed at Annexure.

(d) Financial assistance is sanctioned on receipt of the applications and their consideration by the Expert Committee.